

THE CASA GRANDE VALLEY.
Information for Those Seeking Homes
in the Garden Spot of the West.

Pinal county was organized in 1876 from portions of Pima, Maricopa and Yavapai counties, and contains an area of 2,340 square miles, or 1,424,800 acres, one-third of which could be made productive by a systematic reclamation of the arid lands now running to waste. Next to Maricopa is the most important agricultural county in the Territory. It is traversed from east to west by the Southern Pacific, and a branch of the great Santa Fe system is now approaching from the north. The objective point of the road is a connection with the Santa Fe road, of the same system. The Southern Pacific is also building in this direction from Tempe and it is considered that the Santa Fe road will not cease until the Deer Creek coal fields are reached and connection is made with another branch of that road running from New to Globe and now completed to Fort Thomas.

This it will be seen that Pinal county is the theater of railroad building at the present time, and inside of a year Florence, the county seat, will be

A RAILROAD CENTER.

At present it contains a population of about 1500, but with the completion of these two railroads and the little reservoir now in the Arizona can approach it for natural advantages, and a large increase in population will follow. Florence is situated at an elevation of 1033 feet above sea level, situated near the railroad station of Casa Grande, which it is connected by an elegantly equipped daily stage line, going and coming stages run by the old Casa Grande stage, and passengers are allowed a short time to inspect them. There are many handsome private residences in Florence, several hotels, stores, good hotel, an excellent graded school employing four teachers, churches, secret societies, a Commercial Club, a newspaper (the only one in the county), and the handsome court house in the territory. There is also the Casa Grande, which is the district capital of Gila, Graham and Pinal counties. The streets are lined with shade trees, which impart an air of comfort on the warm days.

PRODUCTS OF THE VALLEY.

Unlike the Salt River, the waters of the Gila are fresh and pure; the soil contains no alkali, is a deep, rich gray, and especially adapted to the growth of the prune, olive, almond, peach, fig, pear, apricot and fruits of all kinds, which are largely on the market. It is also the natural home of alfalfa, which grows in the most prolific manner. The great drainage of the valley is to the south, and a few miles from the mouth of the river, the water is turned into a canal, which has been cultivated to a great extent to grow a number of orange trees in the neighborhood of Florence which bear their golden fruit each year, without protection, and a few date palm trees are also in full bearing. The season is from six weeks to two months earlier than Southern California, which gives fruit growers an appreciable advantage in

THE EARLY MARKETS.

The absence of fog and nightly dews is a formidable obstacle to the destructive and unduly scaling, and the frost of the valley are all bright and clean. All the agricultural products of temperate and subtropical zones are easily grown here, the long seasons giving a succession of crops that double or treble the productive value of the land.

PRICES OF LAND.

Improved lands, with government title and water right, can be bought for from \$35 to \$50 per acre, according to location and improvements. In the Casa Grande valley, the land is sold for from \$10 to \$25 per acre, and the Casa Grande valley is one of the most fertile in the Territory. There are thousands of acres covered with a heavy growth of mesquite trees, open to settlement. These are the choicest in the valley. Water is in inexhaustible quantity. It is found at a depth of from ten to thirty feet; in fact, a river seems to be flowing underneath. Here is a splendid opportunity to take up a large tract of land with a pumping system of irrigation, which is said to be successful on small tracts. However, with the completion of the Butte reservoir, pumping will be a thing of the past, and it is only mentioned here for the purpose of showing what can be done, and to mention the further fact that what was once considered

AN UNINHABITABLE DESERT

is in truth the most productive land on the globe, and that there is water in abundance, only waiting for the magic wand of capital to develop it. There is no water-storage scheme on the Pacific coast that has one-half the natural advantages and so few engineering difficulties as the Butte reservoir. Here nature has built the elements in ever-living rock, and all that is left for man to do is to put in the headgate, the dam, which forms the great reservoir, and the water is ready to flow under control. Here is a splendid opportunity to take up a large tract of land with a pumping system of irrigation, which is said to be successful on small tracts. However, with the completion of the Butte reservoir, pumping will be a thing of the past, and it is only mentioned here for the purpose of showing what can be done, and to mention the further fact that what was once considered

CASA GRANDE RESERVOIR.

The reservoir of the Casa Grande Valley Canal company is the largest in the Territory. It covers a surface of 1800 acres, with an average depth of 25 feet, and contains about eight thousand million gallons of water. It is situated fifteen miles southwest of Florence. A levee of earth has been thrown up across a depression in the plain 1400 feet in length, 125 feet in width at the bottom and 25 feet in width at top, 2 to 3 slope on each side, and an average height of 25 feet. The water is regulated by 5 cast iron pipes 2 feet in diameter set in solid masonry, regulated by gates and towers. This reservoir cost \$150,000, and supplies water for 6,000 acres.

Meteorological Statistics.

The signal service of the general government maintained a station at Florence from 1894 to 1897. The reports covering the period from July, 1896, to April, 1897, give the following statistics, which may be taken as a safe guide to the prevailing temperature given during the series of six years:

	Mean.	Max.	Min.
July	86.5	111	61
August	86.5	112	60
September	81.9	107	48
October	69.0	90	32
November	52.1	80	25
December	42.7	67	21
1895.			
January	45.7	78	21
February	50.9	83	25
March	64.7	98	29
April	79.0	100	45
May	84.7	107	50
June	88.7	113	64
July	88.7	113	64
August	84.5	110	62
September	71.5	103	50
October	57.4	88	35
November	42.4	80	25
December	32.2	61	28
1896.			
January	46.4	79	22
February	49.5	72	27
March	67.4	98	35
April	82.1	100	52

The heat as represented in the above table during the months of June, July and August is nothing like as unbearable as in the Eastern States, and death from

SUNSTROKE IS UNKNOWN

In fact, in a residence of sixteen years in Arizona the writer has only known two persons to be overcome by the heat, and they recovered. Their condition, however, was more the result of whisky than heat. The air is so rare here that a registered thermometer of 115 degrees is as oppressive as 90 degrees in St. Louis or New York. The Signal Service bureau has recognized this fact, and reports the difference between the apparent and sensible temperature to be fully 30 degrees. At nearly all times there is a pleasant breeze; the nights are invariably cool in the summer, and out-door labor is performed without serious discomfort to either man or beast on the warmest days. Very seldom does the thermometer get below the freezing point in winter, and in the gardens of Florence, the best of castor bean plants two years or more old.

UNTOUCHED BY FROST.

Orange and lemon trees require slight protection during the winter for a year or two, until the wood is sufficiently hardened. While it is a popular thing for one to say that he is "not here for his health," it is an undisputed fact that for all pulmonary ailments to elimate on earth is equal to Southern Arizona, and there are numbers of active, industrious citizens, with but one lung, who come here years ago, expecting to live but a few weeks. But for all that, the wonderful Casa Grande valley is something better than a health resort.

That portion of the great Casa Grande valley lying along the line of the Southern Pacific railway in the vicinity of Casa Grande and Arizona is at present, and with good reason, considered one of the most desirable sections of this magnificent Southern Arizona.

zona. Great changes have been made in the appearance of this part of the valley during the last four years. It was about that long ago that the Florence canal was completed and the work of actual improvement begun. It is needless to say that under our present water system there is nothing like a sufficient water to irrigate this vast body of land.

THE CASA GRANDE VALLEY CANAL

is forty-three miles in length and covers 60,000 acres of land, about 7,000 of which are under cultivation. It is so constructed that it can be easily enlarged and its capacity increased. A reservoir covering 1,500 acres, having storage capacity of eight billion gallons, in the southeast corner of township 8, range 8, gives ample supply of water the year round to all farmers located below it, but those above suffer by a shortage of water during a few weeks in summer.

It is proposed to remedy this by the construction of a huge reservoir at Fort Huachuca, fifteen miles northeast of Florence. Competent engineers have examined and reported upon the scheme and pronounce it feasible.

THE ISLE OF CRETE.

Now the Bone of Contention Between Greece and Turkey.

Something About the Cradle of Classic Civilization—its Past History and its Present Standing.

In a political view the addition of Crete to the small kingdom of Greece would not be very considerable, though that island is three-fourths as large as Connecticut and is capable of supporting 1,500,000 people, as it may once have done. It now has perhaps 300,000, or about one-tenth of the present population of King George's domain—which, by the late census, reached nearly 3,000,000. It is a mountainous land, and its highest peak, Ida, is nearly 7,700 feet high—but 400 feet lower than Parnassus.

In the later period of ancient Greece, and when first controlled by the Romans, Crete was a species of maritime Switzerland, furnishing archers and sailors and other mercenaries to the powerful sovereigns around it. The right of insurrection was recognized there by law, if the ruler was unjust, and usually they were. From mercenary soldiers to piracy was but one step, and the Cretans took it. They were the worst pirates in Pompey's day with whom the Romans had to deal. Even earlier, in the time of Polybius, they had a bad name, for he says: "Crete is the only country in the world where money-making, no matter how, passes for honest and legitimate. If you look at the individual Cretans, few men are more knavish. If you examine the government, there is none which cherishes more unjust designs." This is what most nations have to learn about themselves from their enemies; but there is a singular agreement of opinion concerning the Cretans. To lie was to "play the Cretan."

And yet the cradle of classic civilization was in that mountain land; and its fertility has always been famous. Aristotle said that no position (in the narrow Mediterranean world) was ever more favorable for the establishment of a great empire; and Plato drew from Cretan sources his ideal laws, as Lycurgus was said to have done when he reformed Sparta. Minos, the mythical lawgiver, and Daedalus, the mythical artist, were both Cretans, and Zeus himself is said to have been born upon Mount Ida, named for the Phrygian mountain that overlooks Troy. The worship of several of the Grecian deities came from Crete—the Eleusinian Ceres, for instance; Epimenides was a Cretan, and the Delphic Apollo got his Pythian priests from the same holy Isle. St. Paul established a church in Crete, and it was for centuries an orthodox island. Venice did what she could to make it Roman Catholic, and when the Turks finally held it, but little over two centuries ago, they did their best to make it Mohammedan. The fierce orthodoxy of the islanders resisted it; and now but a fifth part of the residents follow the crescent, and most of those are of Greek descent—renegades for the sake of gain and power.

For the interests of learning and archaeological research, the control of Crete by the Greek government would be all-important. The Turks have latterly allowed excavations there, and many discoveries have been made; but the difficulties of such work in a Turkish dependency are always great. Twelve years ago Halbherr and Fabricius discovered the antique laws of Rortyna, carved in marble, and lying in the bed of a mill stream; and for the past four years Arthur Evans, the English archaeologist, has been finding wonderful Mycenaean remains, which add much to our theoretical knowledge of that prehistoric period which Prof. Maenatt, of Brown, has described so clearly in his new work. But all this research would go for naught if it were not for the fact that the learned Greeks who have done so much on the mainland, would extend their inquiries over Crete, and open its treasures to the American, the British, the German, and the French schools, now so busy digging in Greece.—Springfield (Mass.) Republican.

An Italian brigand having died after a most notorious and remarkable career, even for a man in his profession, his brain was given to a scientist for examination in order to discover, if possible, whether there was any difference between it and the honest, or normal brain. After exhaustive experiments, the professor in charge was forced to admit that he could find nothing abnormal about the brain structure. According to all known laws on the subject, the man was possessed of great ability, and the professor says, might have been a great man. As the brigand was a murderer, a thief and a bad lot generally, it would seem that the fact of there being no abnormal conditions in the brain might have a bearing on the much-discussed subject of brain structure. Some time since a suggestion was made that intelligent people and those of eminence in their professions should will their brains to a society for scientific investigation, in order to determine, by comparison, what were the causes of criminal tendencies, and what brain conditions these tendencies brought about.—N. Y. Ledger.

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They were just closing up the real estate deal and the man who always wanted something thrown in to make a good bargain appeared to hesitate. "What'll you throw in?" "What'll I what?" "Oh, yes, of course," said the real estate man. "How stupid of me! Why, the fact is, in our line of business we are not in exactly in the habit of giving prizes, but, in this case, just to make it binding, I don't mind throwing in the back fact." "Now you're talking business!" exclaimed the would-be purchaser. "It always pays for a man to stick out for his rights." "It was only after the transfer was made that he discovered that the back taxes were payable by and not to the owner.—Chicago Post.

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It is impossible to announce with precision all that the WEEKLY will contain during the year 1897. It were as easy to announce what is about to happen in the world, what triumphs for good government are to be won, what advances of the people are to be made, what is to be the outcome of the continuous struggle between the spirits of war and peace, what is to happen in the far East, what is to be the state of Europe twelve months hence, what new marvels of science are to be revealed, or what are to be the achievements of arts and letters, for the WEEKLY is to be a pictorial record of all.

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